

Burrow Hill
Sanatorium
Colony

FRIMLEY, SURREY



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS
Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square
LONDON, W.C.1

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BURROW HILL SANATORIUM COLONY



PATIENTS IN RESIDENCE

BURROW HILL SANATORIUM COLONY

FRIMLEY, SURREY

IN THE TREATMENT of tuberculosis one of the difficult problems encountered continues to be the profitable use of the time which is spent in a sanatorium while a patient is debarred from following his ordinary occupation. This problem is particularly pressing in adolescence when sanatorium treatment implies commonly the absence of any definite preparation for work at an age which is normally that of apprenticeship.

*Problem
of the
tuberculous
youth.*

To meet the difficulty the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis has devoted Burrow Hill Sanatorium Colony entirely to the treatment of tuberculous youths whose ages range from 13 to 19 years. It is recognised that the number of such patients in any one area is relatively small and that no local authority would find it financially feasible to make special institutional provision of its own for this age group. Consequently, it has been arranged that the facilities available at Burrow Hill should be open to local authorities in all parts of the country.

*Specialised
age-group.*

The scheme of treatment and technical education in operation at the Colony received the approval of the Ministry of Health as expressed in Circular Letter 969 of 1929, in which local authorities are encouraged to avail themselves of the special facilities available at Burrow Hill. Subsequently the scheme has had most favourable comment from the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health in his Annual Reports.

*Official
Approval
of
Scheme.*

The scheme is primarily designed for cases of pulmonary tuberculosis in which the outlook is favourable. All patients enjoy the advantages of ordinary sanatorium treatment under ideal environmental conditions. Fever *per se* will not render an applicant unsuitable for admission provided the outlook is otherwise good.

*Types of
cases
admitted.*

A special sanatorium block is reserved for the reception of new patients, and in this block cases requiring sanatorium treatment can be accommodated till they are fit to undertake education and training.

Nor is a T.B. positive sputum necessarily a contra-indication. At the present time no less than 60 per cent of our pulmonary patients are in the positive group.

In addition a number of surgical cases are received. These are cases of bone or joint disease no longer requiring active orthopædic treatment and cases of glandular disease without discharging sinuses.

Whilst education and technical training are essential features of the scheme treatment is ever the *first* consideration. All else is secondary to this.

*General
Education
and
Technical
Training.*

The technical training is placed upon an educational basis. This makes for efficiency and the maintenance of a high standard of instruction. The technical courses are horticulture and clerical work. The latter is an interesting innovation in training for the tuberculous.

These two courses afford a choice of occupation to boys of different capacity and inclination and provide opportunity for the non-pulmonary as well as for the pulmonary group. Indeed, for the non-pulmonary group the clerical training offers the best opportunity for instruction in a remunerative occupation which has yet been open to the tuberculous cripple.

*Course of
Horticul-
ture.*

The course of horticulture is theoretical and practical, and hence a reasonable standard of general education is necessary for all workers in this course. Each entrant must attend the Colony School till he has reached a satisfactory educational standard. Thereafter he devotes his whole time to horticulture and is able to benefit fully from technical training because of his educational sufficiency.

*Course of
Clerical
Work.*

In the case of the clerical worker the educational standard is necessarily higher and general education of a more exacting nature is undertaken in addition to the purely technical training. The standard aimed at is that of the Junior School Commercial Certificate of the Royal Society of Arts, and for this examination pupils are prepared and presented. The technical side includes shorthand, typewriting, book-keeping, and commerce. The system of shorthand taught is that of Pitman, and the progress of the students is checked periodically by the examinations of that Institute.

BURROW HILL SANATORIUM COLONY

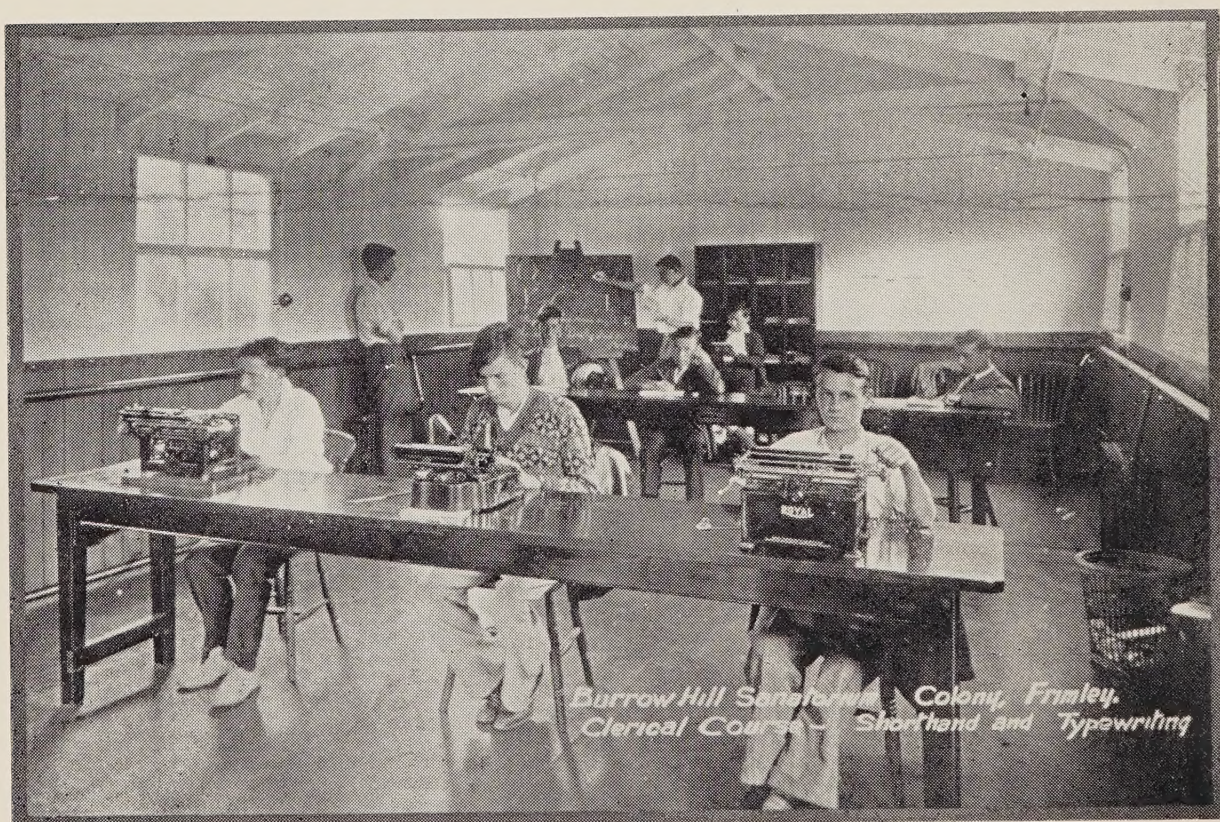


LESSON IN FRUIT BUDDING



CRICKET TEAM

BURROW HILL SANATORIUM COLONY



WORK AND PLAY

The school has the approval of the Board of Education and the technical courses are subject to the inspection of officials from the educational and agricultural committees of the County of Surrey. The educational basis of the scheme has been of inestimable benefit in guaranteeing a sound standard of instruction and working efficiency.

*Official
approval
of Educa-
tional
Courses.*

This is possible because the age of the patient permits of an educational régime. Herein lies the success of the scheme. The patients undergoing instruction are at a teachable and adaptable age.

So far—four years from the date of inception of the scheme—the results have more than justified expectations. Of those trained 66 per cent are in employment.

*After-
histories.*

The finest opening as yet available to our boys trained in horticultural work is entry into the service of the Parks Department of the London County Council. By a special arrangement a certain number of our youths from London are thus given employment on completion of a course of two years' combined treatment and technical education in horticulture. These lads have given complete satisfaction, and for them the future is assured. It is hoped that this principle may be adopted in other areas.

*Employ-
ment in
the Parks
Depart-
ment,
L.C.C.*

Our employment figures show that the clerical trainees have been as successful as the horticultural group in obtaining employment in the occupation in which they had received training. This is specially encouraging because our clerical training is a new departure, and one which is still regarded with some misgivings by those who are unfamiliar with the advantages of indoor occupation for certain types of tuberculous subjects. There can be no doubt that for surgical cases and for a few carefully selected pulmonary patients clerical work is eminently suitable.

*Clerical
Trainees.*

As a further illustration of the importance and usefulness of the work of the Colony in preparing boys for the future, one may mention the case of a youth who obtained a good post in a nursery garden. The boy's home conditions were bad and without the training at Burrow Hill it is very unlikely that he could have secured such a post. Commenting upon the satisfactory account of this lad's work received from his employer, the Care Committee Organiser writes as follows:—"We put down this excellent report about the

*Illustrative
Case.*

boy entirely to the influence of Burrow Hill, as he could not possibly have had a more unsatisfactory upbringing."

*Length of
Stay in
Colony.*

For statistical purposes the group returned as "trained" are those who have been in residence for twelve months or longer. The minimum stay aimed at is twelve months, but for adequate training in either course a period of eighteen months to two years is desirable. Many of our patients remain for the longer period and benefit in health and instruction by the continued stay.

With young lads it is possible to allow longer periods of treatment than would be practicable for adult patients with their home ties and responsibilities. The only objection that might be offered to the prolonged and continued treatment at Burrow Hill is financial.

*Cost of
Main-
tenance.*

But surely such expenditure is a very good form of insurance for the future. The cost of maintenance is 50s. per week. The garden workers are supplied with boots, leggings, and a waterproof.

Recreation.

The claims of recreation are not forgotten, and at the end of the working day there is ample variety to fill the evening hours. There are two recreation halls well equipped with indoor games. In the larger, concerts are held and lectures given during the winter months. During the summer months the recreation field gives patients an opportunity of indulging in such outdoor games and pastimes as are suited to their condition.

Title.

The institution is described in its official title as "Burrow Hill Sanatorium Colony." It is well to lay stress upon the word "sanatorium," inasmuch as the primary object of the institution is the arrest of tuberculosis. The term "colony" is of great usefulness because it helps to protect the ex-patient from the stigma so frequently attached to institutions solely concerned with treatment.

Outlook.

Burrow Hill might well be described as a Sanatorium College because it is both a School and a Sanatorium. It is a school in which the basic principle is sanatorium life. Besides the endeavour to prepare the patient for work after completion of treatment, Burrow Hill seeks to educate its residents in the wider sense. It is safe to say that it offers to the adolescent suffering from tuberculosis more than any other institution and merits the title of a public school for the tuberculous.

Telephone: Deepcut 62.
Stations (S.R.): Frimley 1½ miles.
Farnborough 2½ miles

